

Democrat Fulbright Says It

'Kennedy Has Failed To Alert the Nation'

By Victor Wilson

WASHINGTON, Apr. 30.—President Kennedy has failed to follow through his Presidential campaign pledges to alert America to the foreign dangers it faces from communism, Sen. J. William Fulbright, D., Ark., asserted today.

So far, Sen. Fulbright, who is chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, declared, most Presidential messages to Congress have dealt with helping the individual, and not the nation as a whole.

He cited requests to Congress from Mr. Kennedy for action on minimum wages, medical care for the elderly, and so on, but nothing to meet the growing Communist menace, especially in Laos and Cuba.

"Frankly," Sen. Fulbright said, "I don't think he has followed through as he should."

At the Democratic National Convention at Los Angeles, at which Mr. Kennedy won the party's Presidential nomination, Sen. Fulbright recalled, he frequently stressed the need to warn this country of the dangers it faces from outside. He said the Eisenhower administration had failed on this.

He stressed the same theme

during his campaign speeches against former Vice-President Nixon, the Senator went on. And in his inaugural address, Mr. Kennedy also touched on the same topic, the Senator said.

"My only criticism is there has been no follow-through," he continued.

Hopes for Series of Talks

Sen. Fulbright said he hoped President Kennedy would rectify this situation with a series of what he described as "educational" talks to the country on the perils confronting it. Such talks, he said, might serve as a substitute for some of Mr. Kennedy's press conferences that are nationally televised live.

The Senator said the American people should be told plainly "where we are and what we have to do." He added: "I am confident the people will be both eager and anxious to respond if they are told what to do."

Sen. Fulbright reiterated his feeling that American troops should not be sent to Laos, though he conceded the loss of that small kingdom would result in another bad blow to American prestige.

Assails India's Failure

He was particularly caustic of India's failure to call for clear and quick action in the Laotian situation, and made several critical remarks about that country's Premier Nehru.

Laos, he declared, is certainly of more importance to India than it is to the United States as an independent and neutral country.

"Mr. Nehru should certainly take the lead in this situation. Why must it be us?" he asked.

Wants India to Take Hand

Asked if he would "draw a line" in Southeast Asia, and warn both Red China and Russia not to cross it, Sen. Fulbright said he thought this might be more properly be done by nations in the area, such as Burma, Cambodia and Thailand. India, he said, should certainly take a hand in this, if only for its own protection.

If these countries acted, Sen. Fulbright said, and then requested American aid to fulfill their commitment, he would favor granting it, even if it involved using American troops.